



# “Ever Asked God To Die?”

Jonah 4:1-9

The saying which we have all heard says “Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die.” Life with all of its many twists and turns, wins and loses, still beckons us to live on. Seldom have I ever heard of someone begging for God to take their life. Life is a precious gift from God, so why would anyone ask God to take back His gift to them. People who have ended their own lives have thought long, or have suffered mental anguish before they conclude their final act. Physical death is so final and does not permit one a second opportunity to make amends for any negative discretions. It has been said that, “No one in their right mind should ask to die.” We all want to be around as long as possible or as long as God permits.

There are accounts in the Bible where faithful prophets of God became so angry, disallusioned, and depressed they ask God to take their life. In this morning’s lesson, we briefly look at a reluctant Israelite prophet commissioned to prophesy to the decadent city of Ninevah. Ninevah was the capitol of Assyria, the great empire that ruled over Palestine. More than any other native Assyria was responsible for the harassment and exploitation Israel and Judah suffered for more than a century. Jonah, was a real prophet. In the book of Jonah, God handpicks and calls Jonah to go to Ninavah and tell them “to turn to God.” Jonah has his own agenda and does not go to Ninevah, but goes to Joppa and buys a ticket to Spain. He had his own agenda rather than being obedient to God. Sound familiar?

To summarize the actions of Jonah by scriptures:

- A. God gave Jonah his purpose/mission – vs 1:1-2
- B. Jonah had his own agenda – vs. 1:3
- C. God allowed adversity in his life -1:3-16
- D. God always has a plan – vs. 1:17; 2:10
- E. Jonah prays for forgiveness- vs. 2:1-9
- F. Jonah receives another opportunity- vs. 3:1-4
- G. God’s word will not come back void – vs. 3:5-10
- H. Jonah asked God to let him die – vs. 4:1-9

Ever Asked God To Die? Ever just wanted to quit? Ever wanted to walk away, because you are so angry, with God; your circumstances, your friends; your family; or yourself? Whether you won’t admit it or not we have all reached our mental, physical, or spiritual limit at some point in our lives.

It is not uncommon for loyal, faith filled spirit empowered saints to want to give up. It’s not unnormal to want to “tuck your head in a hole until circumstances change.” When or if you ever reach the point, in your life where you visit or ask God to end it all, know that you are in the company of a few ancient great prophets who felt the same way.

- A. Moses – Numbers 11:1-15 (vs. 15)
- B. Elijah – I Kings 19:1-9 (vs. 4)
- C. Job – Job 6:1-9 (vs. 8,9)
- D. Jeremiah – Jeremiah 20:1-8 (vs. 14-18)

These are “real life” people who loved and serve the Lord, yet they reached the moment in their spiritual, earthly journey to ask God to let them die. Ever been that LOW?

All of us have experienced dissatisfaction, doubt,, depression, disorientations, disgusted and just down, but when we reach that point, remember what the prophet Isaiah said in chapter 55:8,9 “My thoughts and my ways are not like yours. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, my thoughts and my ways are higher than yours.”

God has a plan and a purpose for your life just as he had for Moses, Elijah, Job, Jeremiah, and Jonah. Often we run ahead of God or do not see what His plan is for us, and we become discouraged, become disobedient, experience disappointment, and we fail ourselves and God. We become angry with ourselves and God and quite frankly if it gets so difficult, want to “**CHECK OUT.**” Anger is a self-destructive emotion. The Bible teaches us to face anger with the help of God. Read and study the word of God on anger (which can be self-destructive)!!

- A. Proverbs 25:23; 29:22; 19:11
- B. Ecc. 7:9
- C. Be happy and do not sin – Eph. 4:26
- D. Let your anger produce good – Matt. 21:12; Mk. 3:5;
- E. Do not allow anger destroy you – Romans 12:17-21

F. Be slow to anger – James 1:19

When you feel like asking God to let you die, remember you are not alone; do not let your emotions cancel your covenant with God; and ask God to help you clearly define purpose for living.

Then:

1. **GET UP!!**
2. **GET OUT!!**
3. **GET GOING!!**
4. **GET RESULTS!!**

MEMORY VERSES:

1. I JOHN 5:14,15
2. LUKE 18:27
3. MATT. 19: 26
4. MARK 9:23

LEARN AND GROW!!

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